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ABSTRACT

The two week course on comparative religions for secondary grade students consists of nine mini-packets. Course objectives for each student are to write a paragraph explaining the fundamental doctrines and concepts of the world religions that he chooses to study and to list the name and address of specific places of worship in the county in which he lives. Teaching techniques, including large and small group discussion and independent study, treat the following topics: Judaism, Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Rite, Protestant Faith, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Each unit has its own rationale, statement of concepts, planning section for allocation of days for required activities, reading assignment, and performance exercises. Discussion questions are provided for some units. No major bibliography is attached. Books on world religions must be made available through the school resource center. (Author/RM)

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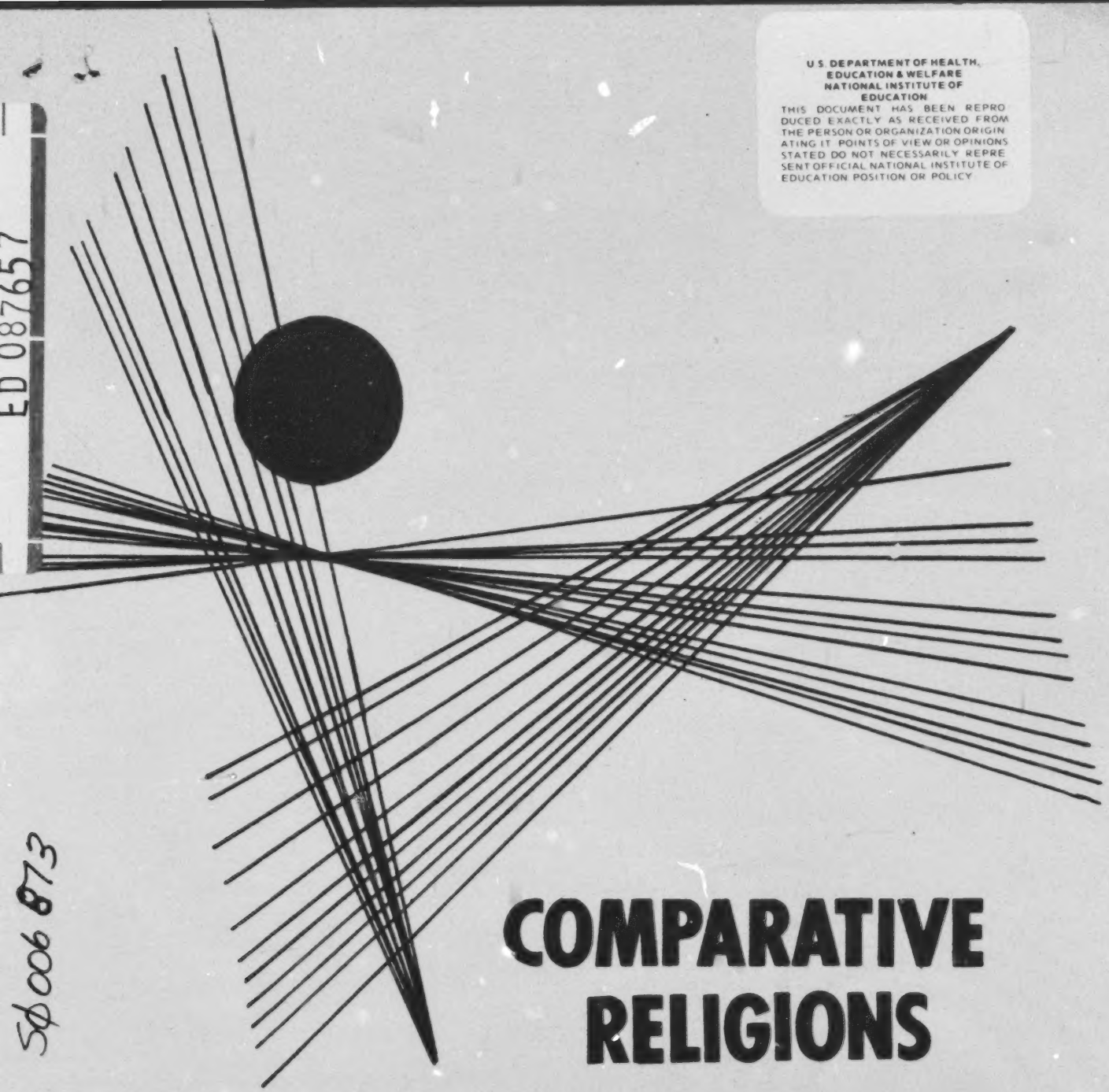


SP006 873

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

M.R. CROSS
Millcreek

PLANNED COURSE MO-TECH

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROJECT NO. 14-2104

CONTENTS

1. Judaism

2. Catholicism

3. Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Rite

4. Protestant Faith

5. Islam

6. Hinduism

7. Buddhism

8. Confucianism

9. Taoism

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

OBJECTIVES:

1. Each learner must be able to write a paragraph explaining the fundamental doctrines and concepts of the world religions that he chooses to study over a 2-week period.

2. Each learner must be able to list the name and address of the following places of worship in Erie County:

   a. One Jewish Temple

   b. Two Roman Catholic Churches

   c. One Eastern Orthodox or Eastern Rite

   d. Two Protestant Churches

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

You will find nine mini-packets in this 2-week Vo-Tech course. Each mini-packet has its own rationale, statement of concepts, planning section for allocation of days in film viewing, reading, and independent study, small group discussion and large group instruction.

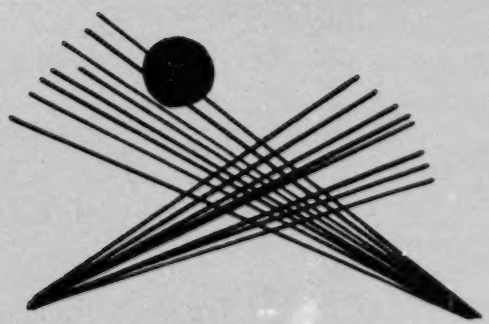
Each teacher may be flexible in the manner in which he directs the learning activities of his students. For example, he or she may feel more comfortable using large group instead of independent study. However, it is recommended that all small group discussion sessions be held as provided in the packet.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

There is no major bibliography attached to this planned course. Each school generally has an ample supply of books on World Religions. Also, encyclopedias provide adequate information for Vo-Tech students. Two excellent books are:

1. Louis Cassels: "What's the Difference" - A comparison of Faiths

2. Delight Ansley: "The Good Ways"



BUDDHISM

RATIONALE

Buddhism grew out of Hinduism as Christianity grew out of Judaism. Buddhism is sometimes called "Hindu Protestantism." It originated in India 2500 years ago as a protest or reform movement within Hinduism.

Its founder was an enormously wealthy Indian prince, SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA, who was born about 560 B.C. in the northern province about one hundred miles from Benares. Legend says that Gautama had three palaces and forty thousand dancing girls to keep him amused. But he learned early in life that luxury did not lead to happiness. When he was about twenty-nine years old, he abandoned his sumptuous life as a prince and went into the forest, dressed in rags, to seek enlightenment in the solitary life of a Hindu ascetic (holy hermits).

How strange it is that in the same century Gautama in India, Confucius and Lao-tzu in China, Zoroaster in Persia, and the great prophets of the Hebrews were all searching for a better way of life. Socrates and Plato came only a little later.

He left the community of holy men, taking five of them with him, and for a time he tried another way. To free his soul from worldly desire, he lived with such perfect austerity and self-denial that he became hardly more than a living skeleton. Guatama found no answers to his questions about life, and concluded that extreme asceticism was no better than luxury as a pathway to happiness.

One evening, Gautama seated himself beneath the shade of a fig tree near the village of Gaya in northeast India. He vowed that he would sit right there until he saw the light.

According to Buddhist scriptures, he remained in meditation for forty-nine days. Suddenly in a flash of inspiration he saw the way clear before him. After this revelation he became Buddha, or the "Enlightened One."

One aspect of Buddha's revelation made him different from the other mystics of his time. He knew that this enlightenment was not for him alone, that he must share it with all men of all castes, no matter how poor or ignorant they may be. His way was to be found, not in lonely contemplation, but in love, understanding, and service. He must not torture his body; he must live with sensible moderation in order to carry on his work.

Sources: Louis Cassels. What's the Difference? A Comparison of the Faiths

Delight Ansley. The Good Ways

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in this LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

A. The Extent of Buddhism

1. The number of Buddhists in the world today is variously estimated at from _____ million to _____ million. Thus, from these figures, Buddhism is one of the greatest religions on earth.

2. How many Buddhists are there in Asia? _____

3. How many Buddhists are there in North America? _____

4. Which country of Asia do you, through your own learning experiences associate with Buddhism? _____

B. The Founder of Buddhism

1. The founder of Buddhism was an enormously wealthy Indian prince whose name was _____.

2. He was born about _____B.C. in the northern province about one hundred miles from Benares, in the country of _____.

3. Realizing that the founder of Buddhism was surrounded with luxury early in his life, we know that he was not satisfied; he perceived the basic flaws of life and these bit deeply into his consciousness; therefore, what are some of the flaws of life that plagued him? _____
_____

4. So, in the time-honored narrative of the Buddha's life, we come upon the dramatic scene where the young prince, aged twenty-nine, looks at his beautiful and devoted wife, sleeping with their new-born son in her arms. He knew he must leave them and, all alone, he left the palace and went forth into the world. He became a MENDICANT. Explain the word mendicant. _____

5. Later he left the community of holy men, taking five of them with him, and for a time he tried another way. What is this new way, a way also very popular with Mohandas Gandhi?
_____

6. Using the above answer in Question #5, we know that Buddha found no answers to his questions about life. Left alone and solitary, while sitting rapt in meditation under a fig tree, he had a series of tremendous spiritual experiences that brought him ENLIGHTENMENT. Using a dictionary, what is meant by the term enlighten? _____
_____

7. Exactly what is it that Gautama, henceforth called the Buddha, discovered in his enlightenment? _____
_____

C. Summarizing Comments on Buddha

Buddha did not invent a brand-new religion, any more than did Martin Luther. Just as Protestantism maintained many of the central concepts of Catholic Christianity, Buddhism retained the fundamental Hindu doctrines of karma and reincarnation. What Buddha tried to do was to purge Hinduism of the polytheistic idol-worship, the superstitious rituals, and the oppressive caste system that had obscured the original insights of the ancient Hindu sages.

D. The "Four Noble Truths"

At the heart of Buddha's teaching were the "Four Noble Truths," which he expounded in his first sermon and kept reiterating throughout his life. They are:

1.

2.

3.

4. The truth of the way to end suffering by treading the noble eightfold path.

Commentary: The fourth great truth tells how the human soul has in itself the power to gain freedom from desire, to live well in this world, and to reach NIRVANA. Using a dictionary, define the term Nirvana: _____

_____

In other words, craving cannot be eliminated by rigorous asceticism as the Hindu YOGIS thought. The secret lies in following a middle way between asceticism and self-indulgence (love of luxury). Using a dictionary, define the term ASCETICISM. _____

_____

E. The Eightfold Path

Write down below the divisions of the Eightfold Path as described by Buddha: (and explain each in your own words)

1. Right _____

2. Right _____

3. Right _____

4. Right _____

5. Right _____

6. Right _____

7. Right _____

8. Right _____

Commentary: The Eightfold Path is a plan for self-salvation, in which man is entirely on his own.

F. Interesting, Assorted Questions and Answers

1. What was Buddha's position on an ultimate divine reality (God)? _____

2. What was Buddha's position on Heaven and Hell and future life?

_____

3. Comment on the hierarchy (priests-bishops) and central organization of Buddhism. _____

4. How do the Buddhists worship? _____

_____

5. There are said to exist some ten thousand Buddhist scriptures. We may be sure Buddha did not write them because he did not write anything as far as scholars can determine. Like most great religious teachers, he talked to his disciples and to groups of hearers. What are some of the simple truths Buddha brought forth and are now part of Buddhist scriptures?

_____

_____

6. The two great divisions of Buddhism are as follows - explain each:

   a. Hinayana -
   b. Mahayana -

7. What is Zen Buddhism? _____

_____

8. The Buddhism of Tibet, a form of Mahayana, contains remnants of primitive magic and nature worship, and is dominated by monks called lamas. Their leader, _____, has powers similar to the Pope.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions: The Large Group will be divided into Small Groups of 6 - 7 students. Each small group will select a discussion leader and discuss the following questions (or related questions).

1. Buddha was concerned about the process of life and he saw sickness, old age, and death. He became miserable and unhappy about man's existence. Have you ever contemplated this attitude of life and, if so, how did you overcome the ensuing depression and despair. Do you identify with Buddha's questions about life or, in your youth, have you not thought much about it? Have you ever been gravely ill and thought about these ponderous questions about the meaning of life? If so, explain.

2. Buddha was concerned about happiness as well as all human beings. In your opinion, what is happiness?

3. In your opinion, can money buy happiness? What are some examples to support your position, either for or against?

4. Is there such a thing as "perfect" happiness?

5. Do you agree or disagree with Buddha's philosophy of life as expressed in the Four Noble Truths that: 1. Existence is suffering?

6. According to Buddha, what is the cause of suffering as expressed in the second Noble Truth? Do you agree or disagree?

7. Buddha says in the third Noble Truth that "To conquer suffering a human being must annihilate the craving of desire." Do you think this is an easy task or a difficult task? Give an example to support your view.

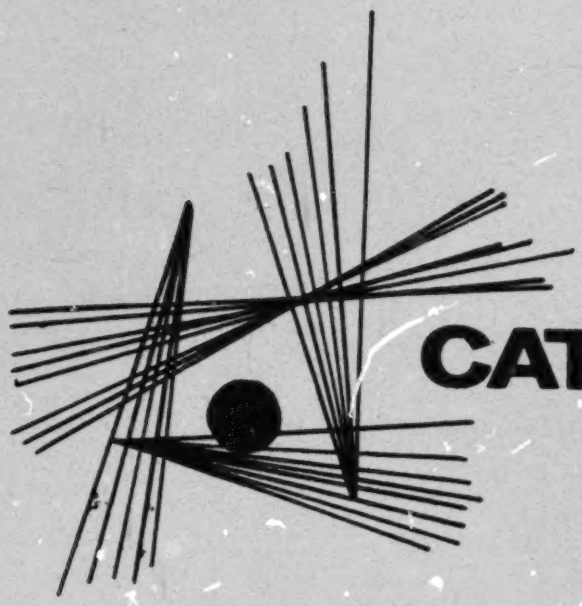
8. Do you know what self-immolation is as witnessed by the Buddhist monks in South Vietnam? Do you think it would take great strength to do this or do you think it is a cowardly way to end life's frustrations?

9. Do you think Buddhism is atheistical because it doesn't stress a divine being?

10. As in Christianity and Islam, there is a Heaven and a Hell, but there is no reference to Heaven and Hell in Buddhism. Does a preferred religion, in your opinion, have to have a Heaven and a Hell? Why do they?

11. Not in any way to deny the number one role of Christ in our lives, how can Buddhist teachings help us cope with problems of American life?

12. What impressed you most about Buddhism? What impressed you the least?



CATHOLICISM

RATIONALE

The Roman Catholic Church is that body of Christians which accepts the Pope as its head on earth. It looks upon him as the representative of Christ and as the successor of Saint Peter in a direct line. It believes that special powers given by Christ to Peter have descended to the Pope. It also believes that the Pope is infallible in all matters of faith and morals when he speaks ex cathedra. Decrees on these matters, when given out by the Pope or by him and the bishops in council are held of necessity to be free from error. Roman Catholics believe that by special protection of the Holy Spirit their church has kept unchanged by doctrines laid down by Christ. They also believe that it is impossible for error to creep into the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Source: The World Book Encyclopedia

CONCEPTS

1. The rise and growth of Christianity from the first century to the sixteenth century and the Reformation.

2. To be able to answer the question: "What is a Roman Catholic?"

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in the LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

1. Jesus, a Jew born in Bethlehem, Judea in the days of Emperor Augustus had preached his faith of human brotherhood and of divine fatherhood until he became hated by his countrymen and was put to death.

   Some other teachings of Jesus were _____
   _____.

2. Who became the leading Christian missionary, the man who was called "the Apostle to the Gentiles?" _____

3. Why were early Christians persecuted by the Romans when Romans were usually tolerant of other religions? _____

4. How did these persecutions of Christians and courage of early martyrs make Christianity spread? _____

5. Christians gradually grew into a strong organization through the help of Emperor Galerius (Edict of Toleration-Christianity legal) and Emperor Constantine in the West (Edict of Milan which granted freedom of worship). In 325, Emperor Constantine sponsored the _____, in Asia Minor, which gave to Christianity the _____, the first formal cataloguing of Christian beliefs and still used today in some Christian liturgy.

6. Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman state in 438 A.D. by Emperor Theodosius. Therefore, Catholicism became the only orthodox faith.

   a. What language became the official language of Roman Catholic Church? _____
   b. Roman architecture became fundamental to Catholic Church architecture. What is the name of the Roman Public Building that became the basis of the first large church? _____
      _____

7. As the Roman Empire fell apart, the Catholic Church began to perform some of the duties that belonged to the state. As a result, people gave lands and money to the church. In addition to its spiritual authority, the church became a great _____, or earthy, power.

8. The supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church is called _____ _____. Another name for this supreme head is _____. According to the Petrine Doctrine, as advanced by Pope Leo, the Roman Bishop (Pope) is a direct successor of _____, the first Bishop of Rome.

9. Early in the history of Christianity, earnest converts, hating the strife about them and full of religious enthusiasm, withdrew to mountain and desert regions. Those who banded together in brotherhoods or sisterhoods were called _____.

10. What are the three monastic vows that a Catholic nun or monk must make. Note: these Benedictine vows required a high standard of conduct.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

11. Within the Roman Catholic Church, we find MENDICANT FRIARS:

a. Who are they as a group? _____
b. Who was the founder of the FRANCISCANS? _____

12. List one example that shows conflicts over Christian doctrine and conflict between church and state: _____
_____

13. What is the date most associated with the Protestant Reformation?
_____

14. In considering Church hierarchy (administrative structure and authority), what is the highest position below the Pope?
_____
What title did John Mark Gannon of the Erie Diocese have at the time of his death? _____

15. Roman Catholics believe that the Seven Sacraments were instituted directly by Christ. They are:

1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____

16. A distinctive feature of the Roman Catholic Church is its belief in _____. This is the place of purification for the soul after death, where satisfaction is made for the temporal punishment due to sin.

17. Many saints of the Church are honored, but special veneration is given to _____, the Mother of Christ, who can obtain from her Son many spiritual blessings by her intercession, according to Roman Catholic belief.

18. List at least two duties of a Roman Catholic, religious in nature:

1. _____
2. _____

19. What is the INFALLIBILITY DOCTRINE? _____
_____

20. What is the Roman Catholic position on divorce? _____
_____

21. What is the attitude of the Church toward Drinking and Gambling?
_____

22. List the name and location of two Erie Catholic Churches:

1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____

23. What are some of the BIG ISSUES that are confronting the Catholic Church today and around which there is great controversy?

_____

_____

CONFUCIANISM

RATIONALE

Confucianism is perhaps the best illustration of the truth that supernatural religious experiences are not necessarily indispensable to the founding of a great religion.

For Confucius himself was not in the strict sense of the word a religious man at all. He was not a prophet, not even, so far as we know, a mystic. He claimed no revelation from Heaven. He was only a good and wise man. Yet his temples exist throughout China even today, and communism there will have a hard time uprooting his cult. Indeed, communism may yet break on the rock of Confucianism. For Confucianism is not so much a creed as it is a way of life. And so deeply is it ingrained in the Chinese mores, ethics, customs and beliefs, no one who knows China can imagine it wholly extirpated.

The name "CONFUCIUS" is the westerner's attempt to write the Chinese K'ung-fu-tzu. This means Honorable Teacher K'ung, for the Chinese write the family name first. Some eighty generations of K'ungs, including the recent premier of China, have been his descendants.

Confucius was born in 551 B.C. in China. He was only a child when his father died, and he had to make his own way in the world. He became a famous teacher while he was still young, which was unusual in a country where age was so highly respected.

There was no real disagreement between Confucius and Lao-tzu. Both were trying to bring the human soul into harmony with the divine law, but they were traveling toward the same goal from different points. Lao-tzu thought that the harmony of the soul should come first, and then good actions would follow. Confucius believed that only through good actions could the harmony be found or expressed.

He taught as Socrates did, by walking about and talking. He never forced his will or opinions upon his pupils; he wanted to teach them how to learn more than what to learn. He used, simple, concrete, everyday examples to teach his doctrines.

Confucius made a profound study of human ideals and behavior. He wanted to discover the rules by which a man could live. In his opinion, it was best to have rules that men could live up to, rather than to set impossibly high standards which would only discourage those who tried to reach them.

And, finally, in our rationale, we should mention and list the Five Basic Relationships in Life that illustrate the duties and responsibilities of one to another:

1. ruler and subject
2. father and son
3. husbands and wives
4. older brother and younger brother
5. between friend and friend

Sources: Forman, Henry James and Gammon, Roland. Truth Is One pp. 57-73
Ansley, Delight. The Good Ways pp. 138-143 .
Fitch, Florence Mary. Their Search for God pp. 53-65

CONCEPT

1. That Confucianism is a religion that expresses deep concern for human welfare, the goal of bringing the human soul in harmony with the divine law through good conduct and applying moral law.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in the LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

1. Confucianism is a religion founded by _____, a name given to him by westerners. His real name is K'ung-fu-tzu.

2. Confucius was not in the conventional sense a religious leader; he did not try to reform an old religion or start a new religion. Therefore, it would seem correct to describe the profession of Confucius as being a _____. In fact, he is widely known as the "_____of all China." (Use the same word.)

3. As a man deeply concerned for human welfare, what was the GOAL of Confucius? _____

4. How many centuries ago was Confucius born? _____

5. Confucius became one of the greatest personalities in history. One Chinese Emperor called him "The Perfect Sage." What is a sage and do you agree? _____

6. Confucius was not a prophet, not a mystic, not a maker, not a creator. Upon what action or deed is the reputation of this world-renown man based? _____

7. List below the Five Basic Relationships in Life that illustrate the duties and responsibilities within society:

   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____
   d. _____
   e. _____

   Commentary: Explain the societal value of the Five Basic Relationships. _____
   _____

8. It is noted that the principle of the golden rule is advocated in 10 of the 11 major world religions including Confucianism. Confucius called it the "Silver Rule." Write it below: _____
   _____

9. After his death his conversations with his pupils were recorded in a book called the ANALECTS. The book is a mine of his sayings and may be called the Chinese Bible. Upon due research, list five sayings of Confucius:

   a.
   b.
   c.
   d.
   e.

10. If you were to visit the Chinese cities of Peking, Nanking and Hangchow, you would see the Confucian places of worship. They are called _____. Describe the ceremonies within these sacred edifices: _____

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions: The Large Group will be divided into Small Groups of 6 - 7 students. Each small group will select a discussion leader and discuss the following questions.

1. In comparing Confucianism with Taoism, we find the opposite views stated below:

   a. Taoism stressed quietism which made a virtue of doing nothing. In other words, let nature take its course, for you are a part of nature.
   b. Confucianism stressed education and the search for wisdom and knowledge.

   Select one of the above statements and defend your position, based on your opinion and experience.

   As a non-Confucianist, do you reject both of the above statements and why?

2. In comparing Confucianism with Taoism, we find the following views of their founders:

   a. Lao-tzu: "Return good for evil."
   b. Confucius: "Good should be met with good, and evil with justice."

   Discuss these questions:
   (1) What is the difference between the two philosophies?
   (2) Which belief is the most practical? Why?
   (3) Which of the two philosophies do you think is the best?

3. The following statement was quoted in the rationale: "Confucianism is perhaps the best illustration of the truth that supernatural religious experiences are not necessarily indispensable to the founding of a great religion."

   Discuss these questions:
   (1) What is a supernatural religious experience?
   (2) What is a supernatural religious experience in Judaism?
   (3) What is a supernatural religious experience in Christianity?
   (4) Do you think it is necessary to have a supernatural religious experience to have a "sound" world religion?

4. Confucius believed peace and harmony would prevail throughout China, if all Chinese looked upon themselves as members of one family. The emperor was the father who would treat his children, the people, with justice and kindness. If he set a good example, they in turn would become obedient, respectful, and model subjects.

   Discuss these questions:
   (1) What is your initial impression of the above Confucian belief?
   (2) In what way was the Chinese family important in this Confucian political scheme?
   (3) Can this political theory work? Is it practical?

5. Confucius said the dignity of the family was even more important than the individual; and no individual must do anything to tarnish the family name.

Discuss these questions:

(1) What is your opinion of this belief?

(2) In the culture of the United States, what is most important: the family or the individual?

(3) Traditionally the family is very important. How important is it?

RATIONALE

A great many people, including journalists and public officials, labor under the delusion that America has only three major religious faiths - Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish.

This popular misapprehension is a source of considerable irritation to Americans who are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Eastern Orthodoxy is a major faith by any criterion, with a world-wide following of more than 150 million persons, including some 6 million in the United States.

Any attempt to lump Orthodox Christians with Protestants or Catholics is an affront to the Orthodox. They not only regard their Church as an entirely separate branch of Christianity; they also insist that it is the one, true, original Christian church, "the depository and true preserver of early Christian faith."

They cite impressive historical evidence in support of this claim. The Christian church was born at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, and, until it obtained a toe hold in the imperial capital of Rome, most of its apostolic activity was concentrated in that area. Jerusalem, Antioch, Corinth, and Alexandria were great centers of Christian worship long before the Roman Christians emerged from the catacombs. The Roman church grew rapidly in size and importance after it won imperial favor in the fourth century. Meanwhile, the Eastern churches increasingly looked for leadership to Constantinople, the transplanted capital of the Roman Empire. By A.D. 500 Rome had become the center of Christianity in the West, with Constantinople its center in the East.

The two branches of Christendom maintained the same creeds and sacraments, and their bishops came together occasionally for Ecumenical Councils, at which they sought agreement on the doctrines affecting the whole Church. But, over the centuries, they drifted progressively further apart. The really serious cause of friction was the growing persistence with which the Bishop of Rome claimed supreme authority over the universal church.

In A.D. 1054 the estrangement was formalized by what historians have called "The Great Schism." The Roman Pope excommunicated the Patriarch of Constantinople, and the Patriarch excommunicated the Pope.

Later, about 9 million Catholics of the Eastern Rite of Eastern Orthodoxy have healed the breach with the West. These Eastern groups have acknowledged the primacy of the Pope of Rome but have retained Eastern Rites. Their liturgy, customs, canon law differ from those of Western Catholicism; but, in faith and morals, they are under the Pope. This group is called Greek Catholic Church of Eastern Rite.

In recent years, mighty efforts were made by the late Pope John XXIII, and are still being made by Pope Paul VI, to overcome a millennium of distrust, and to pave the way for reunion of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, the latter being under Patriarch Arthenagoras.

Source: Louis Cassels - What's the Difference? A Comparison of the Faiths

CONCEPTS

1. That the Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Rite churches are well represented in Erie, Pennsylvania.

2. That Eastern Orthodoxy is a very important branch of Christianity along with Catholicism and Protestantism.

3. That a number of Eastern groups have acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope while others in Eastern Orthodoxy have remained separate.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in this LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

1. The Eastern Roman Empire lasted from about 500 to 1453. The capital city of this empire was _____. What is another name for this city? _____
Note: This city was also the center of Christendom in the East.

2. For approximately how many years was the Eastern Orthodox Church the same as the Roman Catholic Church? _____

3. Even today, what are some of the similarities between Orthodoxy and Catholicism? _____
_____

4. Like Catholics, the Orthodox observe Seven Sacraments. They are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

5. In 1054 A.D. the united Church of Christ finally divided into Eastern and Western segments. This split, known as _____ _____ _____, had been building up for centuries. One of the causes for this split was that the Patriarchs of the East exercised a growing independence that denied the authority of the _____.

6. What are the main differences today between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church?

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____

7. What language or languages are used in Orthodox Church services? _____

8. If you were to visit a Roman Catholic Church, what would you see near the altar or front of the church that is different from a Protestant Church? _____

9. If you were to visit an Eastern Orthodox Church, you would see a ICONASTAS or partition with doors, adorned with ICONS, which separates the Sacristy from the Nave. These ICONS are _____
_____

10. Some of the nationalistic branches of Eastern Orthodoxy are:
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____.

11. What is the title of the spiritual leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church? _____ His name? _____

12. Why do Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas and New Years on different dates from those in the West? _____

_____

13. What is the name and location of two Eastern Orthodox churches in Erie, Pennsylvania?

1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____

14. What is the name and location of two Eastern Catholic Rite churches in Erie, Pennsylvania?

1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____

15. What is the hand position and symbolism of the Sign of the Cross?

_____

_____

HINDUISM

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

A. Source of Hinduism

1. A tribe of fair-skinned people called _____ came into India from the north about 1500 B.C. These primitive people were somewhat like the Indian tribes in America before the white man came.

2. The religion of these primitive peoples was a highly developed form of nature worship. One of the principal deities was _____, the sky-god. The chief god was the sky-father, Dyaus Pitar (like Greek Zeus).

3. The first written records of religion in India are the _____, a collection of sacred psalms, prayers, magic charms for good fortune.

B. Great Stories

1. There are two great epic poems in old Hindu writings which are Mahabharata and Ramayana. The Mahabharata is best known for one of its subdivisions, the _____ (Song of the Blessed One), which tells how the god _____ appeared on a battlefield to give philosophical instruction to a warrior named ARJUNA, who was wondering why he should go forth to kill or be killed. He turned for advice to his charioteer who revealed himself as _____, one of the gods. What advice was given to ARJUNA about war?

   a. _____
   b. _____

2. Mahatma Gandhi called the Bhagavad-Gita a "dictionary of conduct" from which he drew the inspiration for his doctrine of _____.

C. Chief Religious Ideas

1. There is a great gulf that exists between the philosophical Hinduism that we read about in Hindu scriptures, and the popular Hinduism that is actually practiced in the villages of India. The latter always has been, and still is, a _____ religion (with many gods) that rises little above the level of primitive idol-worship.

2. Hinduism's basic tenet is the oneness of all things. There is only one ultimate reality - _____. Brahman is pure, unchanging, eternal, impersonal spirit. From Brahman emanates MAYA - a term which encompasses the whole created universe, and which also has connotations of illusion. MAYA has only that kind of reality which objects in a dream have for a person who is dreaming. The visible world is actually transitory, and man's separate existence is an escape from the illusion of existence and be swallowed up in the Oneness of _____, as a river returns to the sea.

CONCEPTS

1. What kind of religion IS Hinduism?
2. The Concept of Reincarnation.
3. The caste system: India's social expression of the doctrine of KARMA.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

3. Using a dictionary or other source, define the term REINCARNATION: _____

_____

4. What is the Hindu concept of REINCARNATION? _____

_____

5. How many times will a soul be reborn before it is allowed to return to its creator?

6. Using a dictionary or other source, define the term KARMA.

_____

7. This law of KARMA has many different slogans that allow the concept to be understood in everyday language. For example, "Karma is the law that cannot be broken." Through research or your own creativity, write an expression that best expresses Karma in your mind: _____

_____

8. Using a dictionary or other source, define the term DHARMA.

_____

9. What does Christianity have, in your opinion, that is similar to DHARMA? _____

D. Religious Practices and Rituals

1. One of the oldest of the world's religious capitals, BENARES, attracts one million pilgrims yearly. List at least one religious practice of the Hindus at Benares: _____

_____

2. What do the Hindus do when a person dies? In other words, describe their funeral rites. _____

_____

3. What are the food restrictions associated with Hinduism? _____

_____

4. In the Hindu religion, what is YOGA? _____

_____

5. Where do the Hindus worship? _____ Describe:

_____

6. How often do Hindus pray? _____

7. What is the role of a Hindu priest? _____

8. Although there is no formal creed, sacraments, or confession of faith, there are two general religious requirements. List them:

a. _____

b. _____

E. The Caste System

1. What is the origin of the caste system? _____

_____

2. The castes:

a. _____ - the highest or priestly caste; the most important of all men who are considered to be well on their way toward the goal of final escape from life.

b. _____ - the rulers and warrior class.

c. _____ - the third caste who were artisans, farmers, craftsmen, merchants.

d. _____ - the fourth caste, the common laborers, servants.

Note: All the castes were divided into many subcastes (3,000).

3. There are about 50 million Indians, the so-called _____, who are literally the "out-castes" of Indian society, not being members of any of the recognized stratifications.

4. Whereas Hinduism has provided a common bond for much of Indian society, on the other hand, what has this rigid social structure done to Indian society? _____

5. What effect does the caste system have upon a person's occupation? _____

6. What effect does the caste system have upon marriage? _____ _____ Discuss the purpose behind the custom of child marriage. _____

7. List and discuss at least two factors that indicate the caste system of India is weakening: _____

_____

F. The Hindu Pantheon (The aggregate gods of the Hindu people)

1. Identify the following three great Hindu gods:

a. BRAHMA -

b. SIVA (SHIVA -

c. VISHNU -

2. There is also a substantial cult for Shiva's wife, SHAKTI, who is the goddess in charge of epidemics, earthquakes, and floods.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions: The Large Group will be divided into Small Groups of 6 - 7 students. Each small group will select a discussion leader and discuss the following questions.

1. In the Bhagavad-Gita, the story is told of ARJUNA, the perfect warrior, on the eve of an important battle between rival armies. Arjuna was unhappy because in the army opposing him were many of his friends and relatives. He did not want to kill them, but he didn't want to lose. He turned for advice to his charioteer who revealed himself as Krishna.

   a. What advice would you give in the above situation? (Note: each member of the small group must respond with answer.)
   b. What advice did Krishna give to Arjuna? (Note: if you don't know the answer to this question, check an encyclopedia or your teacher.)
   c. By a show of hands, how many in the small group <u>agree</u> with Krishna's advice? _____
   d. By a show of hands, how many in the small group <u>disagree</u> with Krishna's advice? _____
   e. Many have gotten the impression from the teaching of Mahatma Gandhi that NON-VIOLENCE is a cardinal principle of Hinduis. Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, is this above statement true or false?

2. <u>Differences between Christianity and Hinduism</u>:

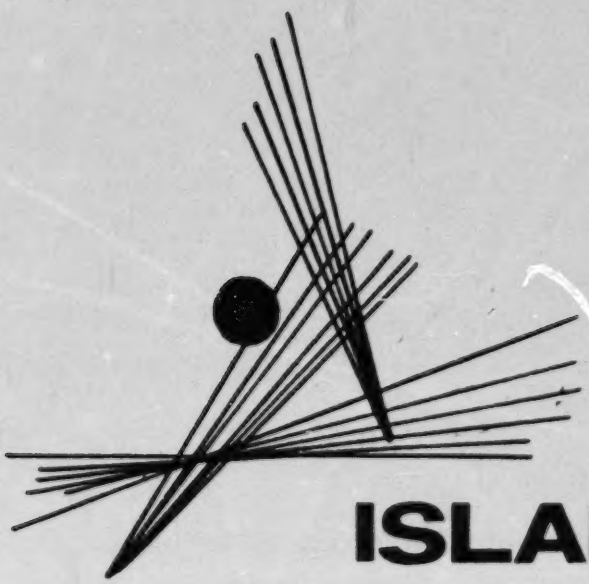
   a. Why does Christianity and Judaism have priests and rabbis who wear vestments that are very costly and highly decorative, whereas Hindu priests and monks wear simple clothing? (This is opinion question.)
   b. The doctrine of KARMA provides Hinduism with a ready explanation for all inequality and human suffering. Hinduism teaches that the poor and hungry are merely getting their just desserts. What does Christ teach about the poor and hungry?
   c. While the faith of Hinduism and its methods of worship are so different from our own, Hinduism, nevertheless, has a list of <u>virtues</u> that are based on the same human laws that govern the conduct of life in all religions. They are: alms-giving, self-restraint, austerity, truth, absence of wrath, peacefulness, uncovetousness, mildness, modesty, absence of crookedness, absence of fickleness, forgiveness, fortitude, purity, absence of envy and pride.
      Assignment: each member of the small group must select <u>one</u> of the above virtues, explain it in his own words, and tell why he or she thinks it should be the Number One virtue for those seeking the road of righteousness.
   d. What do you think is the most difficult to understand: Hindu philosophy OR Orthodox Christian theology? Why?
   e. In modern times many Hindu reformers have risked their fortunes and even faced death for the sake of religious reform. In your opinion, and from our western viewpoint, what should be changed in Hinduism to provide more freedom and justice?

f. "Christianity affirms life, whereas Hinduism denies it." Explain and discuss this major difference between Hinduism and Christianity.

g. The great goal of Hinduism is to escape from the "wheel of existence." What is the great goal or promise of Christianity?

h. Hinduism looks forward to the final loss of the "illusion" of personal identity upon death. What hope does Christianity pursue for the individual after death?

i. There is basic disagreement between Christianity and Hinduism about the nature of ultimate reality. According to Christianity, what is the highest thing to be encountered in the universe? According to Hinduism, what is the highest thing to be encountered in the universe?



ISLAM

RATIONALE

Three of the world's great religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, are based on the belief in one God. Did you know this? Good!

The youngest of the world's major religions, and the only one that seriously rivals Christianity in international missionary outreach, is the faith which the prophet Mohammed introduced among the Arabs in the seventh century. Did you know this too? Vaguely? Thanks for being honest.

Why should we study about Islam? Well, as stated above, it is one of the world's great religions and it is monotheistic like our own religion. It should be interesting to study how other peoples worship God. Islam has so much in common with Christianity and Judaism, and differs from them in so many ways, that it is well worth studying.

There are, in round numbers, 420 million Moslems in the world, as compared with 835 million Christians and only 11 million Jews. Therefore, as citizens of the world, it behooves us to find out more about the religion of 420 million people.

Sources: Louis Cassels. What's the Difference? A Comparison of the Faiths

Delight Ansley. The Good Ways

CONCEPTS

1. To answer the question: "What is a Moslem?"

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in this LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

A. Introduction:

Long before Mohammed was born, Mecca had become a holy place because it contained a wonderful Black Stone which had fallen from heaven; that is, a meteorite. This stone, about six inches high and eight inches wide, was set in the wall of a square temple called the Kaaba, or cube. It was believed to have a miraculous power to bring health and good fortune, and the markings on its surface were interpreted as messages from heaven. The citizens of Mecca earned their living mostly by catering to pilgrims and by guiding caravans.

There was much travel between Mecca and Jerusalem, and the legend of the founding of Mecca shows how closely the Jews and the Arabs were associated. According to the Bible story, Abraham's slave girl, Hagar, and her little son _____ were driven into the wilderness by the jealousy of Abraham's wife _____. The Arabs said that when Hagar was almost dying of thirst, she found a well and made her home near it, and that _____ became the ancestor of the Arabs. The holy well, ZemZem, is still visited by pilgrims to Mecca.

B. The Prophet of Allah:

1. Mohammed was born about A.D. 570 in the city of Mecca, in what is now the country of _____.

2. What was there about the religion of his people that Mohammed wanted to reform? _____

3. Faced with conflict between a dawning conviction and the whole culture in which he lived, Mohammed did what Jesus had done seven centuries earlier...he withdrew into the wilderness to fast, pray, and ponder. While in a cave, what messages were given to Mohammed by the Angel Gabriel? _____
_____

4. What was Mohammed's concept of God? _____
_____

5. Mohammed showed a particular reverence for Jesus, accepting much of what the New Testament says about Him. What does Mohammed and Islam reject about Jesus? _____
_____

6. An important event to Moslems occurred when Mohammed and his followers were forced to flee Mecca because they attacked the worship of false idols at the Kaaba. This flight in 622 A.D. is called _____.

7. In 630 Mohammed and his followers captured Mecca, destroyed the idols of the Kaaba, but saved the sacred Black Stone. Why in your opinion, would he save the Black Stone?_____
_____

C. The Islam Religion:

1. What does the Arabic word ISLAM mean? _____

2. What does the Arabic word MUSLIM mean? _____

3. The revelations that Mohammed brought forth from the cave near Mecca were written down by scribes in the book called _____.

4. What are some interesting, unusual aspects of the sacred book of the Moslems? (Question #3) _____
_____

5. Considering the theology of Islam, what are some of their most important beliefs? Include the topics of heaven, hell, God, characteristics of God, life and death, prophets of the Old Testament, charity.

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

6. What are some basic differences between Christianity and Islam, differences that are more cultural than theological.

a. _____
b. _____

7. Considering "The Five Pillars of Islam" or simply five religious duties of a good Moslem, list them below:

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

8. In addition to the Five Pillars of Islam, Mohammed laid down a number of other moral rules for his followers. List a few:

a. _____
b. _____

9. Some authorities claim that Islam holds some distinct advantages over Christianity, based on the ways each religion has been practiced. Which religion has the better record in the area of race relations and why? _____
_____

10. As compared to Christianity, who are the missionaries in Islam?
_____

11. Considering the Moslem place of worship, answer the following:

a. What is the official name for their place of worship?

_____

b. On what day do Moslems meet for public prayer? _____

c. Five times a day, the call to prayer is sounded from a tower or superstructure on the roof called _____.

d. The man who summons the people to prayer is called _____ and his call is known as the ADHAN.

e. Inside the place of worship, the prayer leader, called _____ spoke from a pulpit called a MIMBAR.

f. Describe something that might impress you the most if you were to visit a Moslem Mosque. _____

_____

D. The Expansion of Islam:

1. We generally think of Islam as a religion of the Middle East but it is much more expansive than that. Answer the following:

a. List a nation of the Subcontinent of Asia whose people are Moslem and reflect the eastward expansion of Islam.

_____

b. In the seventh century the Moslem faith moved westward to Spain. What is the special name for Moslems in Southern Spain? _____

c. Name four countries of the Middle East that are Moslem:

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) _____

d. Name four countries of North Africa that are Moslem:

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) _____

e. Today there are upwards of 400 million Moslems in the world. Only about 10 percent of them live in the Arab countries of the Middle East. List below some countries of Africa today that have huge Moslem populations:

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Teacher Instructions: Divide the Large Group into Small Groups of 6 - 7 students. Have each small group select a discussion leader and discuss the following questions.

1. What is ISLAM?

2. In the United States, the so-called Black Muslim sect headed by a man who calls himself Elijah Muhammed is not a true Moslem sect. Do you agree or disagree and why?

3. Moslems bitterly resent the charge, made in many Western history books, that Islam won converts at sword's point. Why do you think we in the West have been subjected to this historical inaccuracy?

4. Does recorded history have any record of Christians using violence as a weapon of evangelism? Explain.

5. Why do you think that Islam is winning out over Christianity in the current competition for converts in Black Africa today?

6. In what way has Islam been good for the status of women in society even though it seems wrong in our Western culture?

7. Do you think Christianity should have more religious duties similar to Islam...something to reinforce the faith? What would you suggest?

8. Which religion, Christianity or Islam, has the best reputation among Blacks? Why?

9. Which religion, Christianity or Islam, has the simplest doctrine? Why did you make your selection?

10. Do you feel that the doctrines of Christianity are easy for anyone to understand? How would you reform these doctrines?

11. As followers of Jesus, we are totally immersed in His greatness, in His wisdom, and in His example. What are some things you personally admire most about Jesus?

12. What are some things you personally admire about Mohammed? Or, by contrast, what are some things you most dislike about Mohammed that causes him <u>not</u> to be "believable."

13. Do you think less of Mohammed because he never performed a miracle?

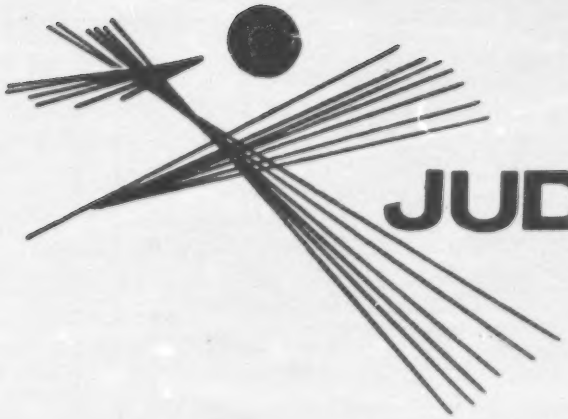
14. Muslims feel that their generosity to poor and needy will in turn bring Allah's generosity to them. Do you believe in this principle?

15. Muslims believe in fasting as a means of putting spiritual things first. Do you agree or disagree?

16. Muslims pray five times a day. It is highly recommended that these prayers be offered in the community mosque. Why do you think?

17. Muslims believe that all human beings are equal and that they must heed the rights of females. Do Christians believe this?

18. Muslims believe that they are a race of brothers and thus respect and help one another. Do Christians believe this?



JUDAISM

RATIONALE

There are in the world today some 12 million people whose very existence is one of the most remarkable facts of history.

These people are the Jews. By birth, marriage, or adoption in faith, they are members of a single family - a family that traces its geneology back nearly four thousand years to a Middle Eastern nomad named Abraham.

The survival of this family as a self-conscious entity through forty centuries would be enough in itself to make the Jews a unique people. No other human family approaches it in size or antiquity. But the descendants of Abraham have survived much more than time. They have endured the most ruthless and long-continuing persecution ever visited upon any people. They have clung to their family identity no matter how high the price - and that price has ranged from living in ghettoes to dying in gas chambers.

The mystery does not end there. For the Jews have not merely kept alive. They have placed an indelible mark on human civilization, and particularly on the moral and religious life of mankind. Out of this people came two of the world's great theistic religions - Judaism and Christianity.

After reading the above paragraphs, taken from Louis Cassel's book What's the Difference? A Comparison of the Faiths Men Live By, what is your reaction? Does it stimulate you to learn more about Judaism? We hope that it does!

Our purpose in this mini-packet is to examine the Jewish faith by looking at the history of Judaism, its terminology, its traditions, the three sects within the faith, its important religious holidays as celebrated in the United States and our local community, and many other interesting facts and concepts.

CONCEPTS

1. To answer the following: "What is a Jew?"
2. The historical roots of Judaism as written in the Old Testament.
3. Jewish views as compared to Christian views on the Coming of the Messiah.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in this LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

SUGGESTED READINGS

Book of Exodus in Holy Bible Chapters 1-34
Cassels, Louis. What's the Difference? A Comparison of Faiths
Books listed in the Bibliography

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

A. Jewish History Survey

1. In Bibliographical history (Bible History) what identification is given to ABRAHAM? _____

2. Who was the son of Abraham and Hagar, Sarah's handmaiden? _____

3. Who was the son of Abraham and Sarah? _____

4. Isaac grew up and married _____ and they had two sons ESAU and JACOB. Jacob then married Leah, Rachel, Zilpah and Bilhah and from these came the 12 sons who became the 12 great Tribes of Jacob. Using a Bible text or Bible map, name the 12 tribes of Israel:

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____	7. _____	8. _____
9. _____	10. _____	11. _____	12. _____

5. Concerning Jewish enslavement in Egypt, answer the following:

   a. Why did the Israelites go into Egypt? _____
   b. What is the title given to RAMESES II, the oppressor of the Jews? _____
   c. List one example of how oppressive life in Egypt was for the Jews. _____
   d. Considering MOSES, list below one personality characteristic that made him an excellent leader of the Exodus: _____

6. Considering the Exodus, answer the following:

   a. Why did the Hebrews flee Egypt? _____
   b. What signs are given Moses to give proof of his Divine mission to the Hebrew people? _____
   c. Since Moses is no speaker and can't use oratory to sway the people, God promises that _____, Moses brother, will be his spokesman.
   d. List any one of the first Nine Plagues: _____
   e. What is the official name for the Tenth Plague? _____
   f List one or more preparations that Moses and his followers were told to make for the (Tenth Plague): _____
   f. How long were the Jews held in Egypt? _____
   g. What is meant by the term EXODUS? _____
   h. In the escape from Egypt (Ex.13:17-22), why didn't Moses lead his people to the nearest route to the Promised Land? _____
   i. In the Egyptian pursuit, why did the Pharaoh pursue the Israelites? _____
   j. Describe and explain the miracle that saved the Israelites from destruction: _____
   k. How many Hebrews were in the multitude that escaped? _____

7. Considering the Journey in the Wilderness, answer these questions:

   a. What kind of food did the Hebrews subsist on while in the wilderness? _____
   b. How many years did the Hebrews wander in the wilderness? _____
   c. List at least one example of some of the tribulations that the Jews had while in the wilderness. _____
   _____
   d. Realizing that Moses received the Decalogue or Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai, tell in your own words what the Ten Commandments really are collectively (as a whole). _____
   _____

Note: It is obvious that there is much more relevant historical material that could be included. Considering the limited scope of this mini-packet, we hope that enough has been covered to serve as a background to Judaism and to entice you to study further.

B. The Religion of Judaism

1. The _____ or first five books of the Bible, contain most of the important teaching and laws of the Jewish faith. The Hebrew name for these books is _____

2. The name for a Jewish religious leader and teacher is _____.

3. The book of laws which contains scholarship and discussions, parables and prayers is called _____.

4. List one affirmative teaching of Judaism: _____
_____

5. Realizing that the core of this religion is morality, list another teaching of this religion. _____

6. What is the Jewish position on life after death and the concept of heaven? _____

7. There are three sects within the Jewish faith:

   1. Orthodox Judaism 2. Conservative Judaism 3. Reform Judaism

   What is meant by ORTHODOX? _____
   What is the position of Reform Judaism? _____
   _____

8. A Jewish house of worship is known as a _____ or _____.
   List the formal name and address of at least one Jewish house of worship in Erie, Pa._____

9. The name for the special confirmation service for Jewish boys when they reach the age of 13 is _____.

10. Considering dietary laws, food prepared in accord with dietary law is termed _____.

C. Jewish Holy Days

1. The Jewish _____ begins at sunset Friday evening and lasts until sunset Saturday.

2. Considering PASSOVER, answer these questions:

   a. What is another name for Passover? _____
   b. What does this Jewish holiday commemorate? _____
   _____
   c. When does it occur? (Check your calendar) _____
   d. In what special way do the Jews celebrate Passover? _____
   _____

3. Concerning the Jewish New Year, answer the following:

   a. What is the Jewish name for this day? _____
   b. When does it occur? (check calendar) _____
   c. Beginning with the Jewish New Year's Day and continuing for 10 days, how do the Jews show respect for this Holy Day? _____
   _____

4. Concerning the Jewish "Day of Atonement", answer the following:

   a. What is the Jewish name for this day? _____
   b. How do the Jews practice their faith on this day? _____
   _____

5. Concerning the "Feast of Tabernacles", answer the following:

   a. What is the Jewish name for this day? _____
   b. When does it occur? _____
   c. What phase of Jewish history does this Holiday commemorate?
   _____

6. Concerning the Feast of Lights (Feast of Dedication), answer the following:

   a. What is the Jewish name for this day? _____
   b. When does it occur? (check a calendar) _____
   c. What does this Jewish holiday commemorate in history? _____
   _____
   d. How do the Jews show respect for this special day? _____
   _____

7. Concerning the Feast of Weeks, answer the following:

   a. What is the Jewish name for this day? _____
   b. When does it occur? _____
   c. What historical event does this celebration commemorate?
   _____

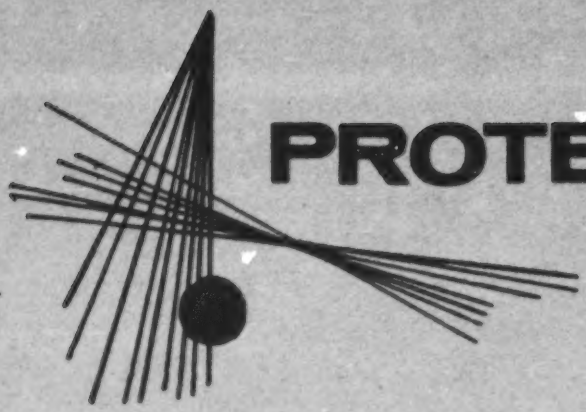
D. Service in a Synagogue

1. Find out what you can about a typical Jewish religious service and write below some of the similarities and differences between Judaism and a Christian church service. _____
_____

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Teacher Instructions: Divide the Large Group into Small Groups of 6 - 7 students. Have each small group select a discussion leader and discuss the following questions (ask your teacher if you want additional help):

1. What makes Judaism a religion? What is religion?
2. What type of religion is Judaism along with Christianity and Islam considering they all worship one God?
3. What, in your opinion, do Jews and Christians have in common?
4. What is your opinion about the idea of the Jews being God's "chosen people?"
5. Why do you think there has been so much persecution of the Jews over the centuries?
6. Who do you think were the real makers of the Hebrew religion? Clue: Bible characters
7. Do you favor Israel as the National Home for the Jews? Why?
8. Why does there continue to be religious discrimination and persecution against the Jews?
9. Why did the Jews reject Jesue of Nazareth as their Messiah?
10. What are some present-day changing attitudes between Jews and Christians that were unheard of years ago?



PROTESTANT

RATIONALE

What is a Protestant? Since we live in the United States, this is a relatively easy question to answer. In our local community we are aware of many houses of worship. Some of these are Catholic churches, some are Eastern Orthodox, some are Protestant churches, and some are Synogogues and Temples. Therefore, we have the idea that a Protestant is a Christian who is not a Roman Catholic or a member of the Eastern Church. And we know that a Protestant is not a Jewish person who attends a Synagogue.

Let us go a step farther in our investigation. What is the origin of Protestantism? All textbooks on World Religions and even the Webster's dictionary provide an answer. Originally, a Protestant was one of those German princes who submitted at the Diet of Speyer (1529) a PROTEST against an edict intended to crush the reform movement, and calling upon the emperor (of Holy Roman Empire) to summon a general council. But perhaps we have gone too far. In discussing a Christian reform movement, we must include the role of Martin Luther and even the reformers who preceded him.

When you think of a Protestant, what Christian denomination do you associate him with? Methodist? Presbyterian? Lutheran? Jehovah's Witnesses? You should be able to list at least ten Protestant denominations. Can you?

M. Robert Cross

CONCEPTS

1. To answer the question: "What is Protestantism?"

2. That, although there are differences between Catholics and Protestants, there is a great bond between them in their acknowledgment of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. That they also share the basic theological affirmations of Christianity that are spelled out in the New Testament and the ancient creeds.

3. That the word "Protestant" comes from the Latin, and means "to profess," "to bear witness," "to proclaim." Its primary meaning is positive and affirmative. Only secondarily does it mean to "protest" against wrong beliefs, false claims and unworthy practices.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in the LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

1. There were many faithful, devout Catholics who demanded reforms in the church. Two reformers before Martin Luther were _____ _____, and _____.

2. These early reformers were critical of _____.

3. In _____ Martin Luther, a German monk and theologian, attacked the distribution of _____ which was a document which granted partial forgiveness of the punishment which an individual who had sinned would otherwise suffer after death. These Papal pardons were sold by agents of Pope Leo X.

4. Martin Luther wrote out his criticisms in _____ or propositions which he nailed to the door of the church at Wittenburg University in Germany.

5. One of Luther's chief contentions or views was _____

NOTE: These ideas became fundamental to Protestant thought.

6. Pope Leo X in 1520 excommunicated Luther, and issued a Papal edict warning that anyplace that sheltered Luther (the heretic) was to be placed under a prohibitory decree.

7. In 1521, Luther was called before the Diet of Worms by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. Since he did not withdraw his claims, the Emperor named Luther an outlaw since he had defamed the Pope and denied the authority of the Church.

8. Between 1521 and 1526, the spread of the Reformation in Germany was due in part to popular support of Luther's doctrines, and in part to political and economic conditions. Therefore, at the Council at Speyer in 1526, the Diet decided that each ruler should reign according to the dictates of his own conscience, and determine the religion of his subjects (Catholic or Lutheranism).

9. Since the Northern German rulers accepted Lutheranism, the Southern German rulers (princes) persuaded the emperor at the Council of Speyer in 1529 to enforce the _____ against the heretics. The Lutheran Princes drew up a PROTEST declaring that the majority had no right to set aside the decision of the Council of Speyer in 1526. Those who signed this appeal came to be called PROTESTANTS.

10. In view of the many beliefs held by Protestants, what are some beliefs held by ALL Protestants?

    a. _____
    b. _____
    c. _____

11. What do Protestants mean by SALVATION?

    _____

12. How do Protestants regard the HOLY TRINITY?

_____

13. How do Protestants regard the Bible?

_____

14. Why are there so many different Protestant Churches?

_____

15. Today there are four main types of Protestantism:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

COMMENTARY: The major branches of Protestantism represent not so much opposed or competing interpretations of Christianity, as complementary emphasis upon different Christian truths. The number of Protestant denominations is less an evidence of the pettiness of Protestants than it is a testimony to the greatness and manifoldness of God's disclosure of Himself to men.

Source: Leo Rosten. Religions in America

p. 158

16. Are Roman Catholics and Protestants drawing closer together?

_____

17. LUTHERANISM

a. Founder - _____
b. Basic Tenets of the Lutheran Creed - _____
c. Rituals of Lutheran worship - _____

18. PRESBYTERIANISM

a. Founder - _____
b. Presbyterian beliefs - _____
c. Rituals of Presbyterian worship - _____
d. Presbyterian Churches in Erie and suburban areas - _____

19. ANGLICANISM (EPISCOPAL CHURCH)

a. Circumstances of founding - _____
b. Beliefs - _____
c. Rituals of Episcopal worship - _____
d. Episcopal Churches in Erie - _____

20. METHODIST CHURCH

a. Founder - _____
b. Methodist beliefs - _____
c. Rituals of Methodist worship - _____
d. Methodist Churches in Erie - _____

21. UNITARIAN CHURCH

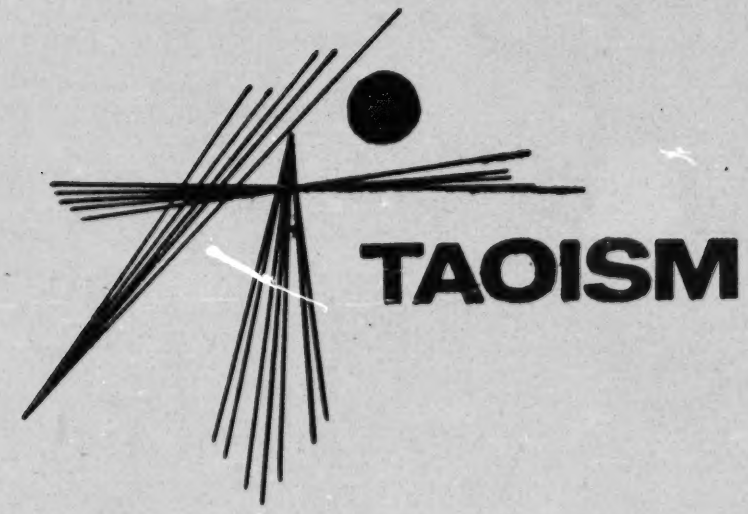
a. Founder - _____
b. Unitarian beliefs - _____
c. Rituals of worship - _____
d. Unitarian Church in Erie - _____

22. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

a. Founder - _____
b. Beliefs - _____
c. Ritual of Worship - _____
d. Places of worship in Erie - _____

23. OTHER PROTESTANT DENOMINCATIONS

a. Baptists -
b. Christian Scientists -
c. Seventh-Day Adventist -
d. Mormon -
e. Quaker -


TAOISM

RATIONALE

In our series of lessons on Comparative Religions of the World, we enter into a study of Chinese religion. At this point of study, we have completed the study of Buddhism. Today we being Taoism and shortly will begin the study of Confucianism, the latter two religions native to China.

It is interesting to note that Taoism represented fantasy and mysticism to the Chinese, Confucianism expressed their intelligence, and Buddhism gave them spiritual satisfaction. So the three religions existed together in harmony.

Chinese religion was developed from two elements found in the most primitive forms of worship - the duty of honoring the spirits of the dead, and the desire to understand the mystery of nature.

The Chinese did not think of departed souls living in a distant heaven, and no Chinese could imagine the possibility of his honorable ancestors going to hell. They believed that the dead remained close to the living, at least for several generations.

Taoism originated with Lao-tzu who was born in 604 B.C. in the province of Chou. When fleeing from this province because of its anarchal government, a frontier guard asked Lao-tzu to write out his philosophy of life. This essay came to be called TAO TE CHING, which may be translated as "The Book of the Way of Virtue," and considered the Taoist bible. There are two sections to the bible; the first dealing with "The why of the universe" and the second dealing with "the law of life."

The three highest virtues, the "Three Jewels" as Lao-tzu called them, are love of Mankind, moderation and humility. Tao is considered the ultimate being "that does everything without giving any sign of doing anything and never exerting itself." The key to this religion is union with Tao, and this union is achieved (as in any religion) by living like the supreme being. Thus the general idea of Taoism is to do nothing. In other words, do not push yourself forward. Let nature take its course, for you are a part of nature.

The ironic fact of this religion is that Lao-tzu was not a religious man and laughed at the gods, only to be revered for over two-thousand years as a god himself.

Sources: Lewis Browne. This Believing World

Delight Ansley. The Good Ways

CONCEPT

1. That Taoism is one of the great religions of China that professes to show man the "Why of the universe" and how his soul can be in harmony with the divine spirit.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Viewing films, colored slides	_____ Day
Reading and Independent Study	_____ Days
Large Group Instruction and/or Small Group Discussion as required by Planned Mini-course or teacher discretion	_____ Days

READING ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin work on the Performance Exercises for this religion, first please read the rationale because it contains some important information. Secondly, you are required to spend one class period reading at least one chapter from a book or periodical on this religion. Any book on World Religions or a section of an encyclopedia will be accepted.

The name of the BOOK and PAGES that I read:

_____

PERFORMANCE EXERCISES

Instructions: Write all your answers in the space provided in the LAP. See your teacher if you need additional help.

1. Taoism as a religion was founded by a man known as _____. This was not his real name, but a title meaning "Old Philosopher."

2. According to this religion, human beings can find happiness and peace of mind only if their lives are in harmony with _____, the ultimate being.

3. The three highest virtues according to Lao-tzu are:

   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____

4. The bible of Taoism is called _____, which may be translated as "The Book of the Way of Virtue."

5. According to Lao-tzu, to what should man turn in order for his soul to be in harmony with the divine spirit? _____

6. What does the word TAO mean? _____

7. Buddha, it may be recalled, prescribed the Eightfold Path as a means of putting an end to suffering by eliminating desire. Read the following:

   Always without desire we must be found,
   If its deep mystery we would sound;
   But he who by desire is bound
   Sees the mere shell of things around.

   From the above quote of Lao-tzu, how does he advise one to reach the Tao, the ultimate being? _____

8. Lao-Tzu in China in the sixth century B.C. taught how the Tao becomes the MOTHER of all things. Jesus at the other end of Asia in the first century A.D. was forever about His _____ business.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions: The Large Group will be divided into Small Groups of 6 - 7 students. Each small group will select a discussion leader and discuss the following questions.

1. In your opinion, is TAOISM a religion or a philosophy. If you say religion, why is Taoism a religion and what constitutes religion? If you say philosophy, explain your answer. Who disagrees?

2. According to Taoist thought, the mind must be set free from all passion and desire, and even free from wisdom in order that the divine spirit may enter. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? In Christianity, what advice did Jesus give that is similar, perhaps, to the advice of Lao-Tzu?

3. Many serious Taoists tried to find the Way by meditation and breathing exercises. As a non-Taoist, do you see any value in meditation and breathing exercises? Why might a Taoist find "the way" through this process? Have you ever consciously meditated?

4. In the above questions to be answered, you have written in the three "precious virtues" of Lao-Tzu. The first is gentleness, the second is economy (frugality, moderation): and the third is humility (shrinking from taking precedence of others.) Do you agree or disagree with the three virtues selected by Lao-tzu as the "top three?" If you disagree, what virtues would you promote?

5. Taoism, simply stated, suggests that its followers "follow the ways of nature." What can a person find of spiritual value in nature?